



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

November 12, 2008

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John D. Porcari
Secretary

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Deputy Secretary

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

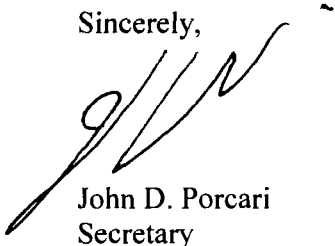
The Maryland Department of Transportation, owner and operator of Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI Marshall), urges you to support and approve the application for anti-trust immunity (ATI) filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Finnair, Iberia and Royal Jordanian.

The emergence of airline alliances has bolstered competition and has greatly enhanced air service access around the world. In addition, the Open Skies agreement with the European Union now provides for access to London Heathrow for all U.S. carriers. The approval of this ATI application would be a prudent extension of your department's efforts to reduce barriers to entry and enhance competition in the international aviation arena.

Advancing inter-gateway competition has also been an objective of U.S. international aviation policy since the mid 1980s. I believe many benefits would accrue to BWI Marshall with the approval of this application. British Airways' daily non-stop service to London-Heathrow would be bolstered with a code share with American Airlines and federal employees who travel internationally would have more choices should British Airways and American Airlines be awarded Fly America traffic. Also, the Washington Council of Governments' biannual passenger survey consistently reports BWI Marshall as the preferred airport in the Washington-Baltimore metropolitan area.

Your affirmative decision for this ATI application is critical for the future growth of trans-Atlantic travel from BWI Marshall. Providing the carriers with ATI levels the playing field among the major airline alliances and further advances goals of U.S. international aviation policy, including inter-gateway competition.

Sincerely,



John D. Porcari
Secretary

cc: Mr. Timothy L. Campbell, A.A.E., Executive Director, Maryland Aviation Administration

My telephone number is 410-865-1000
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